

REMARKS

Claims 33-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph based on lack of antecedent basis for "the connecting element" recited in claim 33. Although claim 33 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot, applicant notes that the dependency of claim 33 was obviously incorrect and that claim 33 should have been dependent on claim 32 rather than claim 29.

All claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103 based on the combination of Krishnaswamy et al or Daman in view of either Jackson or Booth. Applicant proposes that claim 25 should be amended to include the features of claims 32, 33 and 35. Applicant requests that the amendments be entered because they involve simply adding features of the dependent claims 32, 33 and 35 to claim 25 and therefore do not raise any new issues.

The examiner relies on Green as disclosing the connecting element of claims 32-35. Green discloses a pulp conditioning apparatus having an impeller I and a stabilizer S. The stabilizer S is composed of elastomer coated stabilizer vanes 14 extending radially of the impeller and quadrant plates 45 engaging the upper edges of the stabilizer vanes 14. Each quadrant plate 45 is provided with a elastomer cover on its underside and the elastomer cover is formed with a radial groove which fits over the top of a stabilizer vane. The quadrant plates are connected to the walls of the tank in which the impeller and stabilizer are located by rods 46, which are attached to the tank by a bolt or the like. See the paragraph starting at column 3, line 50. It is therefore evident that although the quadrant plates 45 may support the vanes 14 against tilting, they are not connected to the vanes by welding as would be required to meet the limitations of claim 25.

Green does not suggest that the quadrant plates 45 should be connected to the stabilizer vanes 14 by welding. In fact, because of the elastomer coating on the vanes 14 and the quadrant plate 45, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to connect the quadrant plate 45 to the stabilizer vanes 14 by welding.

Therefore, applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 25 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, whether taken singly or in combination. Therefore, claim 25 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



John Smith-Hill
Reg. No. 27,730

SMITH-HILL & BEDELL, P.C.
16100 N.W. Cornell Road, Suite 220
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

Tel. (503) 574-3100
Fax (503) 574-3197
Docket: OUTT 3527